

consistently with the best interests of the patient be properly undertaken by a general practitioner of ordinary competence and skill."

This, however, as was pointed out, does not cover the needs of injured workmen, and further special services are required, such as massage, x-ray treatment, hydrotherapeutic treatment, in-patient hospital treatment, use of convalescent homes, and other forms. While the committee had no doubt of the great value of these in expediting the recovery of disabled workmen and their earning capacity, they did not think that the burden of providing these could be placed either on the shoulders of

the workmen or of the employers, but were of opinion that the solution of the matter lay in the direction of an extension of the services under the National Health Insurance Acts. As they understood that the Ministry of Health had under consideration a further development of medical services for the insured population generally, they would recommend that the extra services for injured workmen under the Compensation Acts should come under such a scheme and be co-ordinated therewith. They did not, therefore, feel justified or able to formulate a scheme. This, it will be obvious, opens up a very large question, and we must await what the future will bring.

## The Stewart Prize.

### AWARD TO DR. J. C. McVAIL.

THE Stewart Prize of the British Medical Association was presented to Dr. J. C. McVail at the General Meeting of the British Medical Association in Glasgow on the evening of Tuesday, July 25th.

The prize was founded by the late Dr. Alexander Patrick Stewart, who graduated M.D. Glasgow in 1838, and afterwards became physician to the Middlesex Hospital; he was among the earliest to give attention to sanitary questions and among the first to distinguish between typhus and typhoid fever. The primary object of the Stewart Prize is to afford recognition of important work already done or of researches instituted and promising good results regarding the origin, spread, and prevention of epidemic diseases.

The prize has been awarded to Dr. McVail in recognition of the important work he has done during a long life devoted to public health. He began his professional career in 1873. He was first of all in general practice and his association with public health dates from the time when he began to assist the medical officer of health for Kilmarnock, whom he ultimately succeeded. He became the first medical officer of health for the counties of Stirling and Dumbarton in 1891, a position he held for over twenty years. His painstaking investigations, his lucid reports, and his wisdom in counsel displayed during the period of his appointment placed him in the front rank of public health officers. His reputation as a far-sighted and impartial investigator was so well established that when, in 1907, the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress desired to have special inquiries made into the methods of administering indoor and outdoor relief, Dr. McVail was chosen to make those inquiries, and his report to the Commission is a fascinating record of patient industry and clear thinking.

Dr. McVail's attention was first turned to vaccination by the study of statistics of Kilmarnock for the years 1723 to 1764. The records of death afforded appalling evidence of

the great prevalence of small-pox among children in the eighteenth century. He was thus led to make an extensive study of vaccination; he embodied the results in a book entitled *Vaccination Vindicated*, the first edition of which appeared in 1839; it at once became the chief authority on the subject. His knowledge of the subject was so extensive that his evidence before the Royal Commission on Vaccination occupied no fewer than twelve days. In 1919 he brought up to date our knowledge of the subject in the Milroy lectures delivered before the Royal College of Physicians of London.

When the National Insurance Act of 1911 came into force Dr. McVail was appointed Deputy Chairman of the Scottish National Insurance Commission, a position he held with great advantage to the community generally until, on the abolition of the Commission and the creation of the Scottish Board of Health, he became the medical officer concerned with health insurance; he has just retired from the service. While Deputy Chairman of the Scottish Insurance Commission he was a member of the committee appointed by the Commission which inquired into the medical services in the Highlands and Islands, and he was also a member of the Astor Committee on Tuberculosis.

### "THE BOOK OF GLASGOW."

EVERY member attending the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association in Glasgow this week has received a copy of the *Book of Glasgow*,<sup>1</sup> whose appearance was briefly noted in our last issue. This handsome volume of 258 well-printed pages, with more than 50 illustrations on art paper, forms an agreeable introduction to the city and its institutions, and will be prized as a souvenir. Its object is to give the visitor a series of impressions of Glasgow from various points of view, and the Printing and Publishing Committee must be congratulated both upon their choice of authors and upon the excellence of the production. The material is arranged in nineteen sections, and each writer has followed the method best suited to his own outlook and style of composition, so that the general effect is one of pleasant variety. Thus the volume, as the chairman of the committee (Dr. William Smeadgrass) insists in his preface, is not to be regarded in any sense as a guidebook but as a collection of articles on the most interesting features of Glasgow and its history, written by a group of distinguished journalists and literary authorities, with the general editorial assistance of Mr. R. T. MacLennan of the staff of the *Glasgow Herald*.

The first chapter, from the pen of Professor Glaister, gives an interesting historical sketch of the University from its foundation in 1451 down to the present time, with special attention to the development and progress of its medical school, and to the library and Hunterian collection. Dr. Oliphant describes the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons and its founder, Peter Lowe, who obtained a charter

from the King in 1599. Dr. John Fergus gives a comprehensive account of the medical institutions of Glasgow, in somewhat fuller detail than his recent article in our columns. Readers of the JOURNAL will recognize also Dr. John Patrick's interesting article on the Glasgow School of Medicine, Mr. William Power's sketch of Glasgow to-day, and the poem on the arms of the city of Glasgow written by Dr. Robert Mayne, first professor of physick in the University from 1637 to 1646. Other verses comprise the "Kirkyard Eclogue" in honour of the old Royal Infirmary, written in the Doric by the late William Findlay, M.D. ("George UMBER"), and the ingenious and well-turned lines by Dr. John Fergus, entitled "Maister Peter Redivivus," wherein the shade of Peter Lowe is supposed to be paying a visit to the Faculty:

"Imagine Peter, as I say,  
Meeting our President to-day."

The remaining articles, with the exception of Mr. W. Stewart's remarks on Glasgow medical men and literature, give impressions of the city from standpoints other than the medical. They include brief historical notes on ecclesiastical Glasgow in pre-Reformation times, by John Edwards, LL.D., on Glasgow of old, by George Eyre-Todd, and on the traditions of the trade houses, by Harry Lumsden; a sketch of the Clyde, its shipping and its docks and shipyards, by Neil Munro; descriptions of business life in Glasgow and its municipal services, by G. B. Primrose and James Willock; notes on Glasgow artists and the works of art preserved there, by T. C. F. Brochie and R. T. MacLennan; a study in contrasts entitled "Glasgow a frontier fort," by George Blake; and, lastly, an outline of the history of golf in this neighbourhood and of the courses open to members during the Annual Meeting.

<sup>1</sup> *The Book of Glasgow*. Prepared under the direction of the Printing and Publishing Committee for the Ninetieth Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association, July, 1922. Glasgow: Alex. Macdougall. (Pp. 258, with 53 plates. Price 5s.)